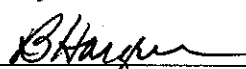


## 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards Part I: Cover Sheet

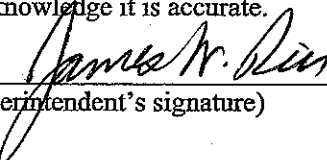
Practice Name Catalina Connection  
Name of Principal Dr. Elizabeth Hargrove  
Official School Name Catalina Ventura School  
School Mailing Address 6331 N. 39th Avenue Tel. ( ) 602-841-7445 ext. 6746  
School Website http://www.alhambra.k12.az.us  
Phoenix 85019 Email Address tkillingsworth@alhambra.k12.az.us  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

 Date 11/28/07  
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent Dr. Jim Rice  
District Name Alhambra School District Tel. ( 602 ) 336-2920  
District Mailing 4710 N. 37th Avenue  
Phoenix 85017 Email Address jrice@alhambra.k12.az.us  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

 Date Nov 29, 2007  
(Superintendent's signature)

## 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards

### Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☒ Urban or large central city      ☐ Suburban  
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area  
☐ Small city or town in a rural area      ☐ Rural

2. .5 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

8 If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K <u>125</u>	5th <u>120</u>	10th <u>      </u>
1st <u>118</u>	6th <u>114</u>	11th <u>      </u>
2nd <u>139</u>	7th <u>111</u>	12th <u>      </u>
3rd <u>142</u>	8th <u>106</u>	
4th <u>117</u>	9th <u>      </u>	
		TOTAL: <u>1,136</u>

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 34.5 % 394 Total Number

Number of languages represented: 14 Specify languages: Primarily English and Spanish

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 80.5 % 915 Total Number

*If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.*

Catalina Connection was launched as a proactive mentoring program to foster positive child/adult relationships at Catalina School, maximize opportunities for academic student success, and as a catalyst for discussing successful strategies for handling difficult and complex situations that students face. In an effort to build a safe and caring school community, Catalina Connection pairs specifically identified students needing additional support with a Catalina Ventura employee who would like the opportunity to nurture a committed relationship with an individual student.

All Catalina Ventura staff members are encouraged to get involved and participate. Once the names of the interested teachers, assistants, maintenance, cafeteria and office staff are identified, we seek out students who can benefit by having a positive influence in his or her life. After securing parental permission, we provide the mentors with their student's name and any additional information that would be helpful for them. All student information is confidential and handled carefully to ensure the program's integrity. The mentors meet one-on-one in an informal setting to engage the student, set goals, transfer their knowledge and experience, and coach the students toward positive behavior changes. Catalina Connection then follows up with the mentors and students to evaluate and monitor the students' progress.

Each mentor makes a commitment to Catalina Connection for a full academic year. This allows the mentor and their student(s) to develop a trusting, consistent relationship. Mentors interact with their students(s) and provide regular encouragement. This may be in the form of a note, a quick after school chat, some time spent buddy reading, or lunch together. Mentors also engage students in positive relationships by meeting with them before or after school, helping them with homework and studying, positive phone calls home to reinforce successes, remembering their birthday, or just by listening. This program impacts approximately 50 students each year.

Student achievement continues to improve by students receiving assistance with academic endeavors and receiving encouragement to attend school and tutoring regularly. Not only is student achievement improving, so are student's personal relationships with school staff, friends, and family members as social and character skills are addressed as well.

Alhambra School District is, "The District with a Vision...The District of Star Makers." By promoting respect for others, academic responsibility, and being a good citizen, Catalina Connection is mentoring students to reach for the stars and see the star that shines within each one of them.